

TREASURES WAITING TO BE DISCOVERED THE STORHOLMS' BLOOMINGTON RAMBLER REMODEL STORY

WHEN DON AND SHARON STORHOLM bought their 1956 rambler on West 102nd Street in 1989, it was already 33 years old.

"I had been in the real estate business years before and knew that Butler was one of the quality home builders in the 1950s," Don said. "By checking records, I was delighted to find that Butler had built our home."

The three-season porch was one of the features that appealed to them.



A space in a living room wall houses a television that can be camouflaged with a large picture.



Other bonuses included two fireplaces, extra high ceilings in the lower level, a large recreation room and hardwood floors throughout. They knew it needed some work, but saw real potential in the three-bedroom home. The stucco garage was from an even earlier era.

"At one time, it served as a summer cabin for a Minneapolis resident who traveled 'all the way to Bloomington' on dirt roads to spend weekends in the 'country,'" Sharon said.

Little by little, remodeling and redecorating projects were completed and the home began to take on a different look. Small windows on the first floor were replaced with larger thermo panes. The oak floors were restored and a space in a living room wall above an antique buffet houses a television that can be camouflaged with a large picture. Gradually, they added three bedrooms, plus a

living room and bath downstairs. Additional insulation in walls and ceilings, plus high-efficiency furnace and air systems created a more energy-efficient home.

The exterior still has the original gray cedar shakes. Cupolas and shingles with "the look of shakes" were added. A small deck was constructed in the front.



After



Before

"We bought two old-fashioned rockers from a garage sale, painted them red and placed them on the front porch to welcome visitors," Sharon said.

On summer evenings, you'll often find the Storholms sitting in the rocking chairs contemplating their next project.

Contributed by Sharon Storholm.

TURNING TRADITION ON ITS EAR 1950s RAMBLER BEFORE AND AFTER

PEOPLE AROUND THE COUNTRY ARE giving their ramblers a new look. Dan and Jennifer Harrison live on a street known as Doctor's Row in a traditional-looking ranch house in Anaheim, California. The 2,600-square-foot home has two enormous bedrooms, a similarly spacious living room and kitchen, and a more typical-size dining room and den. Two baths in virtually original condition, plenty of storage, a pool and a bonus room in the garage convinced the young couple that this was the ideal place to raise a family.

The 1954 home seemingly cried out for traditional furnishings with its wall-to-wall beige carpet, crown molding, brick fireplace and double-hung windows. But Jen and Dan had accumulated lots of vintage collectibles and loved industrial-strength color,

something they displayed to great advantage in their previous house, a 1920s bungalow. The ranch's large room dimensions and earth-toned décor proved challenging, but the transformation from moving day to today is stunning.

Jen figured she could just import her favorite hues to the new house. "I liked our bungalow colors so much that I thought I'd just bring them here," she says. "But nothing that was tried and true worked."

The living room was a particular puzzle. "Every paint color was way too light; it looked like a fishbowl," says Dan. "We tried sea-foam green, peach and light blue. A friend suggested this purple color, which we thought would be way too dark. But we started thinking that the room is really well lit during the day, plus it's huge. If you paint a small room dark it's going to feel like the walls are caving in, but in a big room, why not give it a shot."

Their furniture and collections run from Fiesta pottery and Bauerware to vintage Heywood Wakefield in the dining room and retro-style new chairs in the living room. The color of an aqua and white vinyl couch reminiscent of a 1950s Cadillac is picked up in the dining



The Harrisons spiced up this spacious living room.



Before

room walls, decorative pottery and Todd Oldham chair and ottoman. "We like the '30s, '40s, '50s and the '60s, and things that are brand new," Dan explains. "We want to be comfortable and for it to feel like a home, not a museum."

The Harrisons preach their new love of midcentury to everyone they can. After visitors say, "Wow!" in response to the vibrant interior, they invariably start noticing the rambler details they never before considered noteworthy. "Anyone from the historical society who comes over loves the house," Dan says. "They recognize it as being significant. It's not a cookie-cutter home that you would have seen built in the '70s or '80s."

"People said our bungalow was Pee-Wee's Playhouse; this house is like 'Toontown grows up,'" Jen notes with pride.

ZONING ORDINANCE PARKING UPDATE REVISED CITYWIDE STANDARDS

THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON PLANNING staff has been working with the City Council to update parking standards citywide. The existing standards were largely written in the 1950s and are being updated to reflect the current and future needs of the city.



Some of the revisions to the ordinance include updated minimum off-street parking requirements for residential and nonresidential uses; off-street parking flexibility measures, such as shared parking arrangements; and amended requirements for single-family and two-family residential driveways.

For more information, contact the Planning Division at 952-563-8920, e-mail planning@ci.bloomington.mn.us, or visit the City's web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Parking standards.

LEARN MORE ABOUT RAMBLERS



Michelle Gringeri-Brown and Jim Brown formerly lived in Edina in a postwar rambler.

They publish *Atomic Ranch*, a quarterly magazine devoted to mid-century homes. For information, visit www.atomic-ranch.com.